

Appl. No. 10/099,621
Amdt. Dated Mar. 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Dec. 15, 2003

Remarks

Applicant has amended the specification, claims and abstract to rectify grammatical errors therein and to more correctly express the invention and the exemplary embodiment. In particular, applicant has amended according to the ordinary dictionary definition of "thread," namely a continuous raised line of metal that winds around the curved surface of a screw. No new matter is introduced, and the substance of the claimed subject matter remains unchanged.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1, 4, 10, 13 and 19 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,878 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,293,710 to Lampert et al.

Claims 2 and 11 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,878 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,734,778 to Loughlin et al.

Claims 8 and 17 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,878.

Claims 3 and 12, 5 and 14, 9 and 18 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 10, 11 and 15 respectively of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,878.

Claims 6 and 15 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,878 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,245,683 to Belenkiy et al.

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Claims 7 and 16 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,878 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,652,156 to Shinagawa et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 1, 10 and 19 defines the stationary housing being of a one-piece integrally formed type and a discrete biasing element is inserted into the housing to abut against a rear end of the biasing element.

Oppositely, in the '878 patent disclose two separate halves (10) and (20) are threaded with each other to form the whole final housing assembly. The reason why the '878 patent requires to two discrete halves (10) and (20) to be assembled together is for allowing installation of the coil spring (70). Differently, the instant invention requisitely uses an additional clip to be inserted into the housing after the coil spring is installed in the housing so as to allow said housing to be integrally formed as **one piece**, *instead of the two pieces manner as shown in the '878 patent*, for reinforcing the integrity thereof.

The Examiner mentions that Belenkiy et al. discloses a U-clip in order to retain a spring. Anyhow, it is noted that in the "878 patent, because the spring is installed into the half (20) after the half (20) is formed and successively restrained by the half (10), it is **redundant** to use the additional clip to restrict the rear end of the spring (70) if the rear end of the spring is already restrained by the internal flange (202) of the half (20). Accordingly, it is not an obvious matter.

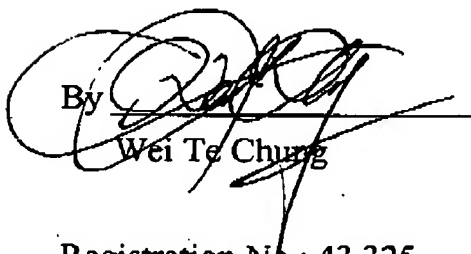
Claims 1, 10 and 19 are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited references. Removal of the double patent rejection applied to all the pending claims is respectfully requested.

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In addition, the Lampert and Belenkiy references are NOT enclosed in the office action and NOT shown in Form PTO-892. Applicant sincerely requests that the Examiner provide either the patent numbers or the corresponding documents for these two references.

In view of the above remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Chang, Chih-Chiang

By 
Wei Te Chung

Registration No.: 43,325

Foxconn International, Inc.

P.O. Address: 1650 Memorex Drive, Santa Clara, CA 95050

Tel. No.: (408) 919-6137